## ANKIE SUE DEL PAPA Attorney General By: RENE L. HULSE Deputy Attorney General 3 Criminal Justice Division Nevada Bar Number 3778 4 555 East Washington Ave., #3900 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 5 (702) 486-3420 Attorneys for Respondents 6 7 8 9 10 11 JIMMIE DAVIS, 12 Petitioner, 555 E. Washington, Suite 3900 Las Vegas, NV 89101 13 Attorney General's Office v. 14 JOHN IGNACIO, et al., 15 Respondents. 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 this Motion: 23 24 25 Exhibit A — 1990: 26

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# ORIGINAL

#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

#### DISTRICT OF NEVADA

MOTION TO DISMISS PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS PURSUANT TO

Case No. CV-N-99-137-ECR (PH

28 U.S.C. § 2254 BY A PERSON IN STATE CUSTODY

Respondents, through legal counsel, FRANKIE SUE DEL PAPA, Nevada Attorney General, by Deputy Attorney General Rene L. Hulse, hereby requests an order dismissing Petitioner JIMMIE DAVIS' (DAVIS) Petition for a Writ of Habeas Corpus Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 By a Person in State Custody. This Motion is based upon the pleadings and papers on file herein, the Exhibits attached hereto, and the following Memorandum of Points and Authorities.

Respondents also submit the following documents filed in the state courts of Nevada to support

### Eighth Judicial District Court of Nevada, Case No. C85078

- Reporter's Transcript of Plea hearing on October 12, 1988, filed on February 2,
- Exhibit B Reporter's Transcript of Sentencing hearing on December 12, 1988. filed on May 26, 1992;
- Exhibit C Petition for Post-Conviction Relief (NRS 177.315), filed on December 20, 1989;

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ORIGINAL

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#### **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

I.

#### FACTUAL BACKGROUND

On July 31, 1988, DAVIS and two friends were in an apartment in North Las Vegas, Nevada, when they were approached by Brittain Gelabert, who wanted to sell a .38 caliber Smith and Wesson revolver for \$100. Exhibit M. Brittain removed the gun and several bullets from her purse and placed them on the counter top. DAVIS picked up the gun, opened the cylinder, loaded it, pointed the gun at Brittain, and demanded that she lower the price. Brittain refused. DAVIS decided to keep the gun without paying for it and told Brittain to leave. When she again refused, DAVIS shot her. Exhibit M. DAVIS was sixteen (16) years old at the time the crime was committed. Exhibit A.

II.

#### PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

On October 12, 1988, DAVIS entered a plea of guilty to First Degree Murder in the Eighth Judicial District Court of Nevada. Exhibit A. On December 12, 1988, DAVIS was found guilty of that crime by virtue of his guilty plea and sentenced to serve a term of life without the possibility of parole in the Nevada State Prison. Exhibit B. DAVIS did not institute a direct appeal of his conviction.

On December 20, 1989, DAVIS filed a Petition for Post-Conviction Relief in the Eighth Judicial District Court of Nevada (First State Petition). Exhibits C & D. The court appointed counsel to represent DAVIS, and on January 9, 1992, counsel filed Supplemental Points and Authorities in Support of DAVIS' First State Petition. Exhibit E. Without conducting an evidentiary hearing, the court entered its order denying the First State Petition on April 15, 1992. Exhibit F.

DAVIS appealed the denial of the First State Petition to the Nevada Supreme Court. Exhibits G & H. The district court appointed counsel to represent DAVIS in his appeal. Exhibit R, at p. 3, 3/25/92. On January 24, 1995, the Nevada Supreme Court dismissed DAVIS' appeal of his First State Petition. Exhibit I.

On September 9, 1995, DAVIS filed a Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus (Post-Conviction) in the Eighth Judicial District Court of Nevada (Second State Petition). Exhibits J & K. DAVIS also requested appointed of counsel, which the court granted on September 27, 1995. Exhibit R, at p.5. On

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October 13, 1995, counsel for DAVIS filed an amended petition. Exhibit L. Without conducting an evidentiary hearing, the court denied the relief DAVIS requested pursuant to an order entered on March 4, 1996. Exhibit M.

DAVIS appealed the denial of the Second State Petition to the Nevada Supreme Court. Exhibit N. On March 4, 1999, the Nevada Supreme Court dismissed DAVIS' appeal of his Second State Petition. Exhibit Q.

On or about August 26, 1997, DAVIS filed a Motion to Correct Illegal Sentence in the Eighth Judicial District Court of Nevada (Third State Petition). Exhibit O. Without appointing counsel or conducting an evidentiary hearing, the district court denied DAVIS' Third State Petition on February 17, 1998. Exhibit P.

DAVIS appealed the denial of the Third State Petition to the Nevada Supreme Court. Exhibit Q. On March 4, 1999, DAVIS appeal was dismissed pursuant to an Order Dismissing Appeal. Exhibit Q.

DAVIS now seeks relief from this Court pursuant to the instant Petition for a Writ of Habeas Corpus Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 By a Person in State Custody. Because DAVIS' Petition contains both exhausted and unexhausted claims, however, it is a mixed petition that must be dismissed.

III.

#### **LEGAL DISCUSSION**

## A. <u>DAVIS' PETITION SHOULD BE DISMISSED BECAUSE IT IS A MIXED PETITION CONTAINING BOTH EXHAUSTED AND UNEXHAUSTED CLAIMS.</u>

The federal courts cannot consider a claim contained within a petition for writ of habeas corpus until the petitioner has exhausted available state court remedies. 28 U.S.C. §2254(b); <u>Vasquez v.</u> <u>Hillery</u>, 474 U.S. 254, 275 (1986). In addition, a petition containing both exhausted and unexhausted claims may not be adjudicated by a federal court and must be dismissed unless the petitioner cleanses the petition of all unexhausted claims. <u>Rose v. Lundy</u>, 455 U.S. 509, 510 (1982).

A claim for habeas relief consists of both fact and law, and both must be submitted to the state courts to permit them a fair opportunity to resolve the claim. Rose, 455 U.S. at 510; Williams v. Hacker, 463 F.2d 234 (9th Cir. 1972); Anderson v. Harless, 459 U.S. 4, 6 (1982). The habeas petitioner must have "fairly presented" the "substance" of his federal habeas corpus claim to the state courts.

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Anderson, 459 U.S. at 6; Gagne v. Fair, 835 F.2d 6, 7 (1st Cir. 1987). It is not enough that all the facts
necessary to support the federal claim were before the state court or that a somewhat similar state law
claim was made. Anderson, 459 U.S. at 6. The "fair presentation" requirement is only satisfied when
the claim has been presented to the highest state court by describing the operative facts and legal theory
upon which the federal claim is based. Id.; Batchelor v. Cupp, 693 F.2d 859, 862 (9th Cir. 1982). "If a
petitioner presents new legal theories or new factual allegations in federal court that transform his claim
or cast it in a significantly different light,' the claim is not exhausted." Gagne, 835 F.2d at 9.
Moreover, a claim is not exhausted if it was presented to the highest state court in a procedurally
defective manner. Roettgen v. Copeland, 33 F.3d 36, 38 (9th Cir. 1994).

When a habeas petitioner moves from state court to federal court, a change in the operative legal theory of a claim from a state-law basis to a federal-law basis creates a new claim which must be exhausted in state court. Duncan v. Henry, 513 U.S. 364 (1995); see also Johnson v. Zenon, 88 F.3d 828 (9th Cir.). In <u>Duncan</u>, the Supreme Court stated:

> If state courts are to be given the opportunity to correct alleged violations of prisoners' federal rights, they must surely be alerted to the fact that the prisoners are asserting claims under the United States Constitution.

<u>Duncan</u>, 513 U.S. at 365-66. The inmate in <u>Duncan</u> framed his claim before the state court that an evidentiary ruling at trial violated state law; he did not apprise the court that he was also denied due process under the Fourteenth Amendment. <u>Id.</u> 513 U.S. at 364-65. Noting that the "mere similarity" of a claim is insufficient to exhaust state court remedies, the Court explained:

> The state court, when presented with respondent's claim of error under the California Evidentiary Code, understandably confined its analysis to the application of state law.

Id., 513 U.S. at 366. The Ninth Circuit similarly stated:

After <u>Duncan</u>, <u>Tamapua's</u> 'essentially the same' standard is no longer viable. If a petitioner fails to alert the state court to the fact that he is raising a federal constitutional claim, his federal claim is unexhausted regardless of its similarity to the issues raised in the state court.

Johnson, 88 F.3d at 830. Therefore, to meet the exhaustion requirement under Duncan and Johnson, the petitioner must present the identical claim to the federal court, both legally and factually, as he presented to the state courts.

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Comparing DAVIS' state court claims with his federal court claims demonstrates that some the his claims have not been properly exhausted.

#### 1. DAVIS' FEDERAL COURT CLAIMS.

- 1. **Ground One**: Sixth Amendment violation for ineffective assistance of counsel because counsel did not file a notice of appeal;
- 2. <u>Ground Two</u>: Sixth Amendment violations for ineffective assistance of counsel based upon the following conduct:
  - a) Failure to challenge the legality of DAVIS' confession;
  - b) Failure to investigate DAVIS' low intelligence and education;
  - c) Failure to interview Webster Leonard;
  - d) Failure to challenge jurisdiction for the robbery charge;
- 3. **Ground Three**: DAVIS' guilty plea was not knowing and voluntary because he was never advised as to the elements of first degree murder -- resulting in Fifth and Fourteenth Amendment and F.R.Cr.P. Rule 11 violations; and
- 4. **Ground Four:** Fifth Amendment and Miranda violations because the police lied when they said DAVIS understood his rights to obtain his confession illegally.

#### 2. STATE COURT CLAIMS

DAVIS alleged the following claims for relief in the appeal of his First State Petition:

- 1) DAVIS' guilty plea was not freely and voluntarily entered because he was never advised of the elements of the murder charge;
- 2) Sixth Amendment violation for ineffective assistance of counsel based upon the following conduct:
  - a) Failure to interview witnesses at the scene of the crime scene;
  - b) Failure to challenge DAVIS' confession; and
- 3) The trial court erred for denying an evidentiary hearing on the petition for post-conviction relief.

#### Exhibits G & H.

In his Second State Petition, DAVIS alleged the following claims for relief:

- 1) DAVIS' plea was induced through coercion and threats;
- 2) Sixth Amendment ineffective assistance of counsel because his attorney failed to challenge the robbery charge in adult court; and
- 3) DAVIS' confession was obtained in violation of his Miranda rights.

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Exhibits J & K.1

In his Third State Petition, DAVIS alleged the following claims for relief:

- 1) DAVIS' sentence was illegal under the ex post facto clause based upon NRS 213.085;
  - 2) DAVIS should be sentenced to life with the possibility of parole;
  - DAVIS' sentence is illegal under Lozada v. Deeds; and 3)
  - DAVIS sentence is illegal because DAVIS' attorney, the DA, and the judge 4) misunderstood DAVIS' age.

Exhibit O.

#### COMPARING THE FEDERAL AND STATE CLAIMS

In Ground 2, DAVIS alleges several subclaims of ineffective assistance of counsel. DAVIS alleges in subclaim 2(b), that his attorney was ineffective because he did not investigate DAVIS' low intelligence and his educational background. This subclaim has not been presented to the state courts for consideration and remains unexhausted.

DAVIS alleges in subclaim 2(c) that his attorney failed to investigate and interview Webster Davis. Before the state, DAVIS alleged that his attorney failed to interview witnesses to the crime. DAVIS has never presented the state courts with the claim that his attorney failed to interview Webster Davis, who was present when DAVIS was interviewed by the police. Accordingly, subclaim 2(c) is unexhausted and not properly before this Court.

Because subclaims 2(b) and 2(c) are unexhausted, the instant Petition is a mixed petition that is not properly before this Court. Accordingly, the Petition should be dismissed or cleansed of the unexhausted claims.

#### C. GROUNDS 1 AND 2(D) ARE BARRED FROM REVIEW IN THIS COURT ON INDEPENDENT AND ADEQUATE STATE LAW GROUNDS.

The federal court will not review a question of federal law decided by a state court if the decision of the state court rests on a state law ground that is independent of the federal question and

After counsel was appointed, DAVIS filed a First Amended Petition for a Writ of Habeas Corpus. Exhibit L. Although DAVIS purportedly added grounds in that amendment, two of the grounds are more appropriately interpreted as statements of cause to excuse a procedural default. The other three grounds simply realleged the claims that had been raised in the original Second State Petition. Cf. Exhibits J & K to Exhibit L. The grounds alleged in the Amendment include: (1) DAVIS' Second Amended Petition should not be dismissed because Nevada does not regularly enforce its procedural bars; (2) The grounds raised in the Second Amended Petition are new grounds and therefore should be heard on the merits; (3) DAVIS did not waive his right to appeal; (4) Miranda violation; and (5) DAVIS' plea was involuntary.

adequate to support the judgment. Coleman v. Thompson, 501 U.S. 722, 727, 731 (1991). This rule applies whether the state law ground is substantive or procedural and whether the default was caused by a failure to raise a claim at trial, a failure to raise a particular claim on appeal, or a failure to appeal at all. Id. at 750.

> In all cases in which a state prisoner has defaulted his federal claims in state court pursuant to an independent and adequate state procedural rule. federal habeas review of the claims is barred unless the prisoner can demonstrate cause for the default and actual prejudice as a result of the alleged violation of federal law, or demonstrate that failure to consider the claims will result in a fundamental miscarriage of justice.

<u>Id.</u>

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A habeas petitioner who has been procedurally defaulted from raising his federal claims in a state court may nonetheless obtain review of those claims in a federal court only if he can demonstrate cause for the procedural default and actual prejudice attributable thereto. Murray v. Carrier, 477 U.S. 478, 485 (1986). To demonstrate cause for a procedural default, the prisoner must be able to "show that some objective factor external to the defense impeded" his efforts to comply with the state procedural rule. Id. at 488 (emphasis added). For cause to exist, the external impediment must have actually prevented a petitioner from raising the claim. McCleskey v. Zant, 499 U.S. 467, 497 (1991).

In establishing prejudice from a procedural default, a habeas petitioner bears:

the burden of showing not merely that the errors [complained of] constituted a possibility of prejudice, but that they worked to his actual and substantial disadvantage, infecting his entire [proceeding] with errors of constitutional dimension.

White v. Lewis, 874 F.2d 599, 603 (9th Cir. 1989) citing United States v. Brady, 456 U.S. 152, 170 (1982) (emphasis in original). If a petitioner fails to show cause, however, the court need not consider whether he suffered actual prejudice. Engle v. Isaac, 456 U.S. 107, 134 n. 43 (1982); Roberts v. Arave, 847 F.2d 528, 530 (9th Cir. 1988).

DAVIS presented Ground 1 to the state courts in his Second State Petition. Exhibit L, at p. 5. DAVIS also presented Ground 2(d) in his Second State Petition. Exhibit J, at p. 14-15. In considering DAVIS' Second State Petition, the Nevada Supreme Court determined that the petition was successive and his claims were procedurally defaulted. Exhibit Q.

> In his habeas petition, appellant challenged the legality of his confession, charging that his Miranda rights has been violated; he claimed

right to appeal and for failing to move to dismiss a robbery charge; and he asserted that his plea was coerced and involuntary.

Our review of the records on appeal reveals that the district court did not err in denying the petition. Appellant's petition was successive, and he failed to demonstrate good cause for raising claims which he had

his counsel had been ineffective for failing to advise him regarding his

Our review of the records on appeal reveals that the district court did not err in denying the petition. Appellant's petition was successive, and he failed to demonstrate good cause for raising claims which he had previously raised or for raising claims which he could have raised in a direct appeal or in a prior petition. And appellant failed to demonstrate prejudice. See NRS 34.810(2)(b). (providing that the district court shall dismiss a petition if the claims could have been raised in prior proceedings or if the petitioner raises again claims which were adjudicated in a prior petition). Thus, appellant's petition was procedurally barred.

Exhibit Q, at p.2. Under Nevada law, a successive or second petition can be dismissed. NRS §§34.745(3) and 34.810(2). Because Grounds 1 and 2(c) were dismissed on independent and adequate state law grounds, those claims are procedurally barred from review in this Court. Accordingly, Grounds 1, and 2(d) should be dismissed.<sup>2</sup>

IV.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Grounds 2(b) and 2(c) have never been presented to the Nevada courts for consideration. The instant Petition therefore a mixed petition containing both exhausted and unexhausted claims. Under the total exhaustion rule of Rose v. Lundy, the instant Petition must be dismissed. In addition, Grounds 1 and 2(d) are procedurally barred from review in this Court on independent and adequate state law grounds. Accordingly, Grounds 1, and 2(d) should be dismissed with prejudice.

DATED this //d day of June, 1999.

FRANKIE SUE DEL PAPA Attorney General

By:

RENE L. HULSE

Deputy Attorney General

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Ground Four was also presented to the state courts in DAVIS' Second State Petition. Exhibits J & L. On April 16, 1999, Respondents were served with DAVIS' Motion to Dismiss Ground Four Argument As Moot. Although the Court has not as of this date served Respondents with a ruling on that Motion, Respondents are not addressing Ground Four on the assumption that the Court will grant DAVIS' request. However, if Ground Four is not dismissed pursuant to DAVIS' request, that claim should be dismissed on independent and adequate state law grounds pursuant to the state court's ruling that the Second State Petition was successive. See Exhibit Q.

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Attorney General's Office

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** 

I hereby certify that I am an employee of the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Nevada and that on the // day of June, 1999, I served the foregoing MOTION TO DISMISS PETITION FOR A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. §2254 BY A PERSON IN STATE CUSTODY by mailing a copy thereof addressed to:

JIMMIE DAVIS, NDOP #27362 NEVADA STATE PRISON P.O. BOX 607 CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89702

> An employee of the Nevada Attorney General's Office

#### DISTRICT COURT

## 70.70

## CLARK COUNTY, NEVADES 2 3 43 11 3]

THE STATE OF NEVADA, )

Case No. C85078

Plaintiff, ) Dept. No. IV -vs- ) Docket: "C"

JIMMIE DAVIS,

Defendant. )

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#### REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT

<u>of</u>

PLEA

#### BEFORE THE HONORABLE EARLE W. WHITE, JR., DISTRICT JUDGE

Wednesday, October 12, 1988

9:00 A.M.

#### APPEARANCES:

For the State:

WILLIAM P. HENRY

Deputy District Attorney

For the Defendant:

STEPHEN J. DAHL

Deputy Public Defender

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DAVID S. GIBSON

Deputy Public Defender

Reported by: LISA BRENSKE, C.S.R. No. 186

Official Court Reporter

LAS VEGAS, CLARK COUNTY; WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1988 1 2 PROCEEDINGS 3 4 5 THE COURT: C85078, Jimmie Davis. The record will show the presence of the defendant, his counsel, Mr. 6 Gibson and Mr. Dahl, and Mr. Henry for the State. 7 8 Mr. Henry. MR. HENRY: Your Honor, we have a proposed 9 resolution. The defendant right now stands charged in an 10 Information with two counts, murder with use of a deadly 11 weapon and robbery with use of a deadly weapon. Before I 12 describe the negotiations I should inform the court that I 13 do not believe that he is properly charged with robbery with 14 use of a deadly weapon. At the preliminary hearing stage I 15 initially believed him to be 16. One of his attorneys 16 inadvertently told me he was 18. Because of that I 17 proceeded against him with an amended complaint charging him 18 with robbery with use of a deadly weapon and he was held to 19 20 answer. After he was held to answer I've had 21 discussions with his counsel and conducted some 22 investigation and I believe him to be 16. And as I 23 understand the law now although a person of any age can 24

originally be charged in the adult courts with murder, for

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1	any other crime even if it was committed during the
2	murderous transaction he has to be charged originally in
3	juvenile court.
4	THE COURT: He has to be certified.
5	MR. HENRY: Therefore initially I'd move to
6	dismiss Count II and I want the record to reflect and I
7	believe that his counsel will agree on the record that the
8	dismissal of Count II in no way has anything to do with the
9	negotiation and is not consideration.
10	Having said that
11	THE COURT: That's jurisdictional.
12	MR. HENRY: Yes.
13	THE COURT: I will grant that motion. Count II
14	is ordered dismissed for that reason.
15	MR. HENRY: Having said that, the proposed
16	negotiation would be that the defendant plead to first
17	degree murder without the use of a deadly weapon as a lesser
18	included offense of Count I and stipulate that the
19	punishment for that first degree murder would be life
20	without the possibility of parole in the Nevada State
21	Prison.
22	MR. DAHL: That's correct. This plea is being
23	made pursuant to N.R.S. 174.065, the party agrees to a
24	degree of crime if there's separate degrees of crime, and
25	also in the case of murder stipulate to a punishment less

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1	than death. And the other understanding is, Your Honor,
2	that the State will not go down and try to certify our
3	client on the robbery and bring him back. Those charges
4	will not be pursued any further.
5	THE COURT: All right. Mr. Davis, did you hear
6	what's been said?
7	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
8	THE COURT: And are you in agreement with
9	what's been said?
10	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
11	THE COURT: Those negotiations, you've
12	discussed these with your lawyers Mr. Gibson and Mr. Dahl?
13	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
14	THE COURT: And there is no one who is forcing
15	you to do this, to enter a plea of guilty, are they?
16	THE DEFENDANT: No.
17	THE COURT: With respect to Count I is there
18	going to be any amended pleading filed?
19	MR. HENRY: Your Honor, I had not prepared one.
20	I just move to strike the penalty allegation, the penalty
21	enhancement allegation of use of a deadly weapon.
22	THE COURT: That will be the order then.
23	As to Count I charging you with murder, what is
24	your plea?
25	THE DEFENDANT: Guilty.

1	THE COURT: Now, the crime of murder you can be
2	punished by life with or without the possibility of parole
3	and you understood that you've agreed to the penalty be life
4	without the possibility of parole?
5	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
6	THE COURT: And you're in agreement with that?
7	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
8	THE COURT: You discussed this matter and you
9	do that freely and voluntarily?
10	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
11	THE COURT: Has anybody threatened you or
12	anybody close to you to make you plead guilty?
13	THE DEFENDANT: No.
14	THE COURT: Has anybody promised you leniency
15	or any special treatment to get you to plead?
16	THE DEFENDANT: No.
17	THE COURT: By entering a plea of guilty you're
18	surrendering that means giving up certain constitutional
19	rights.
20	You have the right to a speedy and public trial
21	by an impartial jury free of pretrial publicity at which
22	time it's the burden of the prosecution to prove your guilt
23	beyond a reasonable doubt.
24	You have a right to confront the witnesses
25	against you and cross-examine them. You have a right to

1	compel witnesses to attend court to testify on your behalf.
2	You have a right to testify. You may refuse to
3	testify in which event the prosecution may not comment on
4	that fact in front of the jury.
5	You have the right to appeal to the Supreme
6	Court of Nevada and you have the right to the assistance of
7	a lawyer during all of these proceedings.
8	Do you understand all of these rights?
9	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
10	THE COURT: Do you understand that you had a
11	trial date that's been set in this matter in November and at
12	that time your rights with respect to trial would be fully
13	respected? Do you understand that?
14	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
15	THE COURT: Do you know that by pleading guilty
16	you're giving up those rights?
17	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
18	THE COURT: And knowing that you have these
19	rights do you still wish to plead guilty?
20	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
21	THE COURT: Are you pleading guilty because in
22	truth and in fact you are guilty?
23	THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
24	THE COURT: Would you tell me then what
25	happened on July the 31st that causes you to plead guilty

this morning to murder in the first degree.

THE DEFENDANT: The young lady came to sell a gun in an apartment on Britz Circle or whatever. She came in, she set the gun on the counter. She asked me if I would pay \$400 and I picked up the gun and I told her why \$400 and she told me she had bullets for the gun too. She gave me the bullets, I loaded the gun. I cocked the trigger, pointed the gun at her and told her to lower the price. She didn't lower the price to 75 and as I put the gun down -- as I closed the trigger the gun shot.

MR. HENRY: Your Honor --

MR. GIBSON: He's not finished, Mr. Henry.

THE DEFENDANT: And the gun shot. Before the gun shot she asked 75 and I was trying to get the gun for nothing and I was trying to keep the gun -- from her retrieving the gun from me which it was hers at first.

THE COURT: Mr. Henry.

MR. HENRY: Your Honor, if I might. The defendant I believe the day after he committed this crime in the presence of his uncle and after having been given his Miranda rights by a North Las Vegas detective made a written statement to the North Las Vegas detective. And to paraphrase what he said, as I recall he said that the victim Brittain Gelabert came in and offered to sell him a gun, a pistol, a revolver for a hundred dollars; that she took the

pistol out and put it on the counter in front of him; out of 1 her purse -- she took the bullets out of her purse and laid 2 3 them down. That he picked up the pistol, opened the cylinder, loaded it with the bullets, closed the cylinder, 5 cocked the gun, put his finger in the trigger guard above the trigger and pointed it at her. She said she wanted a 6 7 hundred dollars. He told her to get out. She said again 8 she wanted a hundred dollars. He told her to get out. 9 The detective asked him, "When you were 10 pointing the cocked pistol at her did you want to get the 11 pistol from her without paying anything?" He said yes, and 12 it was after he formed this intent that he would get the 13 pistol from her without paying anything by pointing the 14 cocked pistol at her that the pistol went off, shot her and 15 she died as a result of that and I believe he would agree to 16 this statement of the facts. 17 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 18 THE COURT: Let me ask you this. Have Mr. Dahl and Mr. Gibson been representing you throughout this matter? 19 20 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. THE COURT: Is there anything that you've asked 21 them to do that they haven't done or anything that you think 22 23 that should have been done to prepare for the case? THE DEFENDANT: 24 No. 25 THE COURT: How much time have they spent with

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1	you? Do you have any idea how much they've visited with you
2	and talked with you?
3	THE DEFENDANT: A couple hours.
4	THE COURT: Do you feel there's anything they
5	haven't done that you want them to do?
6	THE DEFENDANT: No.
7	THE COURT: The court finds the defendant's
8	plea of guilty to be freely and voluntarily given. I
9	further find you understand the nature of the charge, the
10	consequences of your plea and I accept it. We'll refer this
11	matter to the Department of Parole and Probation for a
12	presentence and investigation report and set it over for the
13	entry of judgment and imposition of sentence.
14	THE CLERK: November 16th at 9:00.
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16	(The proceedings concluded.)
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18	* * * *
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20	ATTEST: Full, true, and accurate transcript of
21	proceedings.
22	Hoa Brensee
23	LISA BRENSKE, C.S.R. No. 186
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#### DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA FILED

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THE STATE OF NEVADA,

Case No. C85078 Dept. No. IV

-VS-

Docket: "C"

JIMMIE DAVIS,

Defendant.

Plaintiffs,

#### REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT

<u>QE</u>

#### <u>SENTENCING</u>

## BEFORE THE HONORABLE EARLE W. WHITE, JR., DISTRICT JUDGE

Monday, December 12, 1988

9:00 A.M.

#### **APPEARANCES:**

For the State:

GARY R. BOOKER

Deputy District Attorney

For the Defendant:

DAVID S. GIBSON

Deputy Public Defender

Reported by: Lisa Brenske, C.S.R. 186

Official Court Reporter

LAS VEGAS, CLARK COUNTY; MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1988

#### PROCEEDINGS

THE COURT: C85078, State versus Jimmie Davis.

Record will show the presence of the defendant, counsel Mr.

Gibson, Mr. Booker for the State.

9 On October 12, 1988 the court accepted the defendant's plea of guilty to Count I of an Information

Is there any legal cause or reason why judgment should not be pronounced?

charging first degree murder as a lesser included offense.

MR. GIBSON: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: By virtue of your plea of guilty you're adjudged guilty of first degree murder.

Does the Department of Parole and Probation have anything to add?

THE OFFICER: No. Your Honor.

THE COURT: Does the district attorney have anything to say?

MR. BOOKER: No, Your Honor. We would stand on the record as it is and go with the stipulation in this matter.

THE COURT: Mr. Davis, do you have anything to say, any information to present in mitigation of punishment

before I impose sentence?

THE DEFENDANT: Only thing I can say is I'm sorry.

THE COURT: Mr. Gibson.

MR. GIBSON: Your Honor, we have negotiated this matter and stipulated between the district attorney and our office as to the sentence and I informed the court of that. I just would point out for the record that this is a 16 year old young man who has no serious past and hopefully — we've discussed GED and things that he can accomplish while he's in the prison system and hopefully he will avail himself to those things and I'd submit it on that.

THE COURT: It appears to the court that based on the evaluation that the stipulated penalty taking into consideration the age of the defendant, apparently that you got started into the wrong kind of business and lost complete respect. You stated you're sorry now. At least the evaluation shows a lack of remorse. I believe that the recommendation is well-taken in accordance with the stipulation and I believe that it is justified.

So in addition to the 20 dollar administrative assessment fee you're sentenced to the Nevada Department of Prisons to a term of life without the possibility of parole.

I believe that there's a hundred eight day

1	computation.
2	MR. GIBSON: Hundred thirty-four now.
3	THE COURT: All right. 134. That's agreeable.
4	That will be the order.
5	I believe we have other counts to dispose of?
6	MR. GIBSON: Yes, Your Honor.
7	THE COURT: State moving to dismiss?
8	MR. BOOKER: Yes, it is, Your Honor.
9	THE COURT: Motion is granted.
10	
11	(The proceedings concluded.)
12	
13	* * * *
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15	ATTEST: Full, true, and accurate transcript of
16	proceedings.
17	Floa Brensk
18	LISA BRENSKE, C.S.R. No. 186
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DISTRICT COURT 1 FILED CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 2 ذ JIMMIE DAVIS, 4 Defendant-Petitioner, 5 VS. 6 THE STATE OF NEVADA, C85078 7 CASE NO. DEPT. NO. ΙV "C" Plaintiff-Respondent, DOCKET 8 9 PETITION FOR POST-CONVICTION 10 RELIEF (NRS 177.315 et seq.) 11 Date of Hearing: Time of Hearing: 12 INSTRUCTIONS: 13 (1) This Petition must be legibly handwritten or type-14 written, signed by the defendant/petitioner and verified. (2) Additional pages are not permitted except where noted 15 or with respect to the facts which you rely upon to support your grounds for relief. No citation or authorities need be 16 furnished. If briefs or argument are submitted, they should be submitted in the form of a separate memorandum. 17 If you want an attorney appointed, you must complete the Affidavit in Support of Request to Proceed in Forma Pauperis. 18 You must have an authorized officer at the prison complete the Certificate as to the amount of money and securities on deposit 19 to your credit in any account in the institution. You must include all grounds or claims for relief 20 which you may have regarding your conviction or sentence. Failure to raise all grounds in this Petition may preclude you 21 from filing future petitions challenging your conviction and sentence. 22 You must allege specific facts supporting the claims in the Petition you file seeking relief from any conviction or 23 sentence. Failure to allege specific facts rather than just conclusions may cause your petition to be dismissed. 24 When the Petition is fully completed, the original and one (1) copy must be filed with the Clerk of the State District 25 Court for the county in which you were convicted or sentenced within one (1) year after the final judgment of conviction, or within 26 one (1) year after the final decision in your appeal if you tended your conviction. One (1) copy must be mailed to the District Attorney of the county in which you were convicted or to the original prosecutor. Copies must conform in all particulars

to the original submitted for filing. 1 Failure to follow these instructions may result in dismissal of your petition. Failure to state clearly and pre-2 cisely the grounds upon which you make your claim for relief, and to state clearly and precisely the facts and circumstances which 3 give rise to your claim, may result in dismissal of your petition. 4 PETITION 5 1. Did you personally prepare this Petition? If not, who 6 did? Give name and, if a prisoner, his prison number: \_\_\_\_\_ 7 Anthony C. Green #26544 8 2. Name and location of Court which entered the Judgment 9 of Conviction under attack: Eighth Judicial District Court, 10 Department IV, Las Vegas, Nevada 11 3. Date of Judgment of Conviction: December 12, 1989 12 4. Length of sentence: Life Without Possibility of 13 Parole. 14 5. Nature of offense involved (all counts): First 15 Degree Murder 16 17 6. What was your plea? (check one): 18 a. Not Guilty \_ \_ b. Guilty  $\underline{x}$  c. Nolo Contendere \_\_ 19 If you entered a quilty plea to one count or indictment or 20 information, and a not guilty plea to another count or indictment 21 or information, or if the guilty plea was negotiated, give 22 details: Petitioner was originally charged with First Degree 23 Murder and Robbery, both with the Use of Deadly Weapon. Petitioner 24 was plea to the First Degree Murder charge and the use of a 25 deadly weapon was stricken. The Robbery with the use was dismiss-26 ed beforehand as being inappropriate as Petitioner was only 16 27 and had not been certified as to that charge. 28

1	7. Kind of trial (check one):
2	a. Jury b. Judge without jury <u>x</u>
3	8. Did you testify at the trial? Yes No $\underline{x}$
4	9. Did you appeal from the Judgment of Conviction?
5	Yes No _x
6	10. If you did appeal, answer the following:
7	a. Name of Court:n/a
8	b. Result:n/a
9	c. Date of result:n/a
10	11. Other than a Direct Appeal from the Judgment of
11	Conviction and sentence, have you previously filed any petitions,
12	applications or motions with respect to this judgment in any
13	court, State or Federal? Yes No X
14	12. If your answer to No. 11 was "Yes" give the following
15	information: .
16	a. (1) Name of Court:None
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18	(2) Nature of proceeding:n/a
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20	
21	(3) Grounds raised: n/a
22	
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24	
25	(4) Did you receive an evidentiary hearing on your
26	petition, application or motion? Yes No X
27	(5) Result:n/a
28	(6) Date of Result:n/a
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<ul><li>(5) Result:</li></ul>	ication or motion
b. As to any second petition, application or motion?  (1) Name of Court:	e n/a iary hearing on
(1) Name of Court:Normalized	n/a iary hearing on
(2) Nature of proceeding:	n/a iary hearing on
(2) Nature of proceeding:	iary hearing on
(3) Grounds raised:	iary hearing on
(4) Did you receive an evident petition, application or motion? Yes (5) Result: (6) Date of result: c. As to any third petition, appli give the same information: (1) Name of Court:	iary hearing on
(4) Did you receive an evident petition, application or motion? Yes (5) Result: (6) Date of result: c. As to any third petition, appli give the same information: (1) Name of Court:	iary hearing on
(4) Did you receive an evident petition, application or motion? Yes  (5) Result:  (6) Date of result:  c. As to any third petition, application application application or motion:  (1) Name of Court:	
petition, application or motion? Yes  (5) Result:  (6) Date of result:  c. As to any third petition, appli  give the same information:  (1) Name of Court:	
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(6) Date of result:  c. As to any third petition, applique the same information:  (1) Name of Court:	No x
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give the same information:  (1) Name of Court:	n/a
(1) Name of Court:	cation or motior
(2) Nature of proceedings:	None
	n/a
(3) Grounds raised:n	
	/a

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	(4) Did you receive an evidentiary hearing on yo
petitio	on, application or motion? Yes No _x
	(5) Result: n/a
	(6) Date of result:n/a
	d. Did you appeal to the highest state court having
jurisdi	ction the result of action taken on any petition, applic
tion or	motion?
	(1) First petition, application or motion?
	Yes No x
	(2) Second petition, application or motion?
	Yes No _x_
	(3) Third petition, application or motion?
	Yes No _x
	e. If you did not appeal from the adverse action on
any pet	ition, application or motion, explain briefly why you d:
not:	No petition, application or motion was filed.
13	. Has any ground being raised in this Petition been pre
viously	presented to this or any other Court by way of petition
fir had	eas corpus, motion or application? If so, identify:
	a. Which of the grounds are the same:None

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1	b. The proceedings in which these grounds were raised:
2	n/a
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4	14. State concisely every ground on which you claim that
5	you are being held unlawfully. Summarize briefly the facts sup-
6	porting each ground. If necessary, you may attach pages stating
7	additional grounds and facts supporting same:
8	a. GROUND ONE: PETITIONER'S PLEA OF GUILTY WAS NOT
9	KNOWINGLY AND UNDERSTANDINGLY ENTERED IN THAT IT WAS BASED UPON
10	MISREPRESENTATIONS, FEAR AND COERCION
11	
12	SUPPORTING FACTS (Tell your story briefly without
13	citing cases or law): Petitioner's guilty plea resulting in a
14	life sentence without the possibility of parole for first degree
15	murder was not understandingly and knowingly entered in that the
16	plea was based upon the misrepresentations, force, trickery and
17	coercion of counsel.
18	During the preliminary stages of the proceedings, Petitioner
19	met with his counsels, Stephen Dahl and David Gibson, Deputy
20	Public Defenders, during one of two very short meetings (approx-
21	imately 10 to 20 minutes long) for what (Continued on Page 6a)
22	b. GROUND TWO: PETITIONER'S SENTENCE OF LIFE WITHOUT
23	POSSIBILITY OF PAROLE IS VIOLATIVE OF THE CRUEL AND UNUSUAL
24	PUNISHMENT PROVISIONS OF THE NEVADA AND UNITED STATES CONSTITU_
25	TIONS
26	SUPPORTING FACTS (Tell your story briefly without
27	citing cases or law): Petitioner repeats and realleges Ground
28	One, and all Supporting Facts contained therein, as if the same

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Petitioner believed was to discuss the case. At this session, and despite the fact that both counsels believed the shooting was accidental (see Exhibit A), and without Petitioner's parents or any other guardian being present or made aware of the meeting or counsels' intentions, Mr. Dahl told Petitioner, who at the time was a very scared 16 year old who is illiterate to the mechanics of the criminal justice system, to plead guilty to first degree murder because, as Mr. Dahl made Petitioner believe, with him being black and the victim being a young white female, he (Petitioner) would get an all-white jury and they (the jury) would give him the death penalty (counsel made these fraudulent representations while being fully aware that neither Nevada case law or the circumstances of the case or those of Petitioner would allow such severe punishment). Counsel also made Petitioner believe that although he was pleading to "life without" the judge would change the sentence to "life with" because of the circumstances of the crime and Petitioner's age. Counsel also represented to Petitioner that he (counsel) would file "something" in Court before time ran out. During this ordeal, counsel never took the time to fully explain to Petitioner as to what exactly "life without" entailed. Additionally, counsel failed to explain to Petitioner the elements of the crime charged, for example, what exactly "malice aforethought" meant, and that by pleading guilty Petitioner was admitting that he intentionally killed the victim despite his constant pleas and the witnesses statements to the See Exhibits A (pp. 10 and 18), B, C and D. Petitioner found out the full and true extent of counsels' misrepresentations his family tried to no avail to obtain different

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counsel so that Petitioner could withdraw his plea which had he
 1
     known beforehand the truth as to counsels' assertions and promises
 2
     he never would have entered in the first place. Exhibit E.
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were fully set forth herein. 1 Petitioner's guilty plea resulting in a life sentence with-2 out the possibility of parole for first degree murder is violative 3 of the Nevada and United States Constitution's cruel and unusual 4 punishment provisions in that the penalty of life without the 5 possibility of parole is disproportionate to the offense and 6 circumstances of the instant case and those (Continued on Page 7a) 7 GROUND THREE: THE SENTENCE OF LIFE WITHOUT THE 8 POSSIBILITY OF PAROLE IMPOSED ON PETITIONER VIOLATED HIS RIGHTS 9 TO EQUAL PROTECTION OF LAW 10 11 SUPPORTING FACTS (Tell your story briefly without 12 citing cases or law): Petitioner repeats and realleges Ground 13 One, and all Supporting Facts contained therein, and Ground Two, 14 and all Supporting Facts contained therein, as if the same were 15 fully set forth herein. 16 Petitioner's guilty plea resulting in a life sentence with-17 out the possibility of parole for first degree murder violates 18 the Equal Protection Clause of the Nevada and United States 19 Constitutions in that it is a sentence more severe than that 20 imposed on similar defendants in like (Continued on Page 7b) 21 GROUND FOUR: PETITIONER'S PLEA OF GUILTY TO FIRST 22 DEGREE MURDER WAS ENTERED WITHOUT THE EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE OF 23 COUNSEL BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE NEGOTIATIONS. 24 25 SUPPORTING FACTS (Tell your story briefly without 26 citing cases or law): Petitioner repeats and realleges Ground 27 One, and all Supporting Facts contained therein, Ground Two, and 28

of Petitioner and thus amounted to the infliction of cruel and unusual punishment. Despite the events leading up to the shooting and unfortunate demise of the victim, the end results were nothing more than a tragic accident. Petitioner was very apologetic and distraught upon learning that the victim was shot and immediately tried to help her before panicking. Exhibits A and D. Petitioner was also the one to call the police when he heard that they were looking for him, Exhibit F, and obeyed the officer's advice and came to the station and gave a voluntary statement explaining the events leading up to the accidental discharge of the weapon. Exhibit C. Yet, despite the circumstances described above and the crime's lack of brutality or heinousness, and overlooking the implied accidental nature of the shooting, the Court imposed the severest of penalties and sentenced the 16 year old Petitioner to the rest of his life in prison without any possibility of parole or release consideration due to any subsequent rehabilitative accomplishments of Petitioner.

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circumstances as those of Petitioner. Normally, in this State individuals involved in non-brutal or non-heinous homicides enjoy the benefit of receiving a sentence of life with the possibility of parole, or a sentence of less than life, while life without the possibility of parole is reserved for the more brutal killings and where those accused and convicted are either a menace to society or they are people lacking any redeemable qualities or traits. However, here in a case where the possibility of an accidental shooting existed, and where the crime was totally devoid of any degree of brutality or heinousness, and where the Petitioner had some redeemable qualities and traits, and if nothing else was of a very young age, a sentence of life without the possibility of parole was imposed contrary to normal custom and practice.

If given the benefit of a hearing, Petitioner will show the Court that in no case in this State has a defendant received a sentence of life without the possibility of parole under circumstances similar to those presented in this instant case. Yet, in every case where such a sentence was imposed each one had noticeable aggregating circumstances. Since the citation of legal authority is discouraged in petitions of this nature, Petitioner would ask the Court to compare this case to that of the defendant in State of Nevada v. Morris Junior West, Case No. C82279, Department No. VI, Clark County Court and review the case attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference as Exhibit G. Both of these cases involved homicides committed by juveniles far more severe and brutal than that involving Petitioner and each defendant received sentences of life with the

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possibility of parole, as opposed to that of Petitioner where
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      the shooting was accidental and he received a life sentence
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      without the possibility of parole.
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1	all Supporting Facts contained therein, and Ground Three, and
2	all Supporting Facts contained therein, as if the same were
3	fully set forth herein.
4	Petitioner's guilty plea resulting in a life sentence
5	without the possibility of parole for first degree murder was
6	obtained in violation of the Sixth and Fourteenth Amendments to
7	the United States Constitution in that (Continued on Page 8a)
8	15. If any of the grounds listed above were not previously
9	presented in any other Court, State or Federal, state briefly
10	what grounds were not so presented, and give your reason(s) for
11	not presenting them: None of the issues were raised primarily
12	because of counsels' ineffectiveness. Neither counsel seen fit
13	to challenge the negotiations since said negotiations originated
L4	from them and the errors mentioned above were direct consequences
L 5	of their incompetence or lack of concern for Petitioner's rights
16	and welfare.
L 7	16. Do you have any petition or appeal now pending in any
8	Court, either State or Federal, as to the judgment under attack?
.9	Yes No x
20	If "Yes" state what court: None
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2	17. Give the name and address if known of each attorney who
3	represented you in the following stages of the judgment under
4	attack herein:
5	a. At Preliminary Hearing: David Gibson, Deputy Public
6	Defender (DPD), 309 S. Third St., Ste. 226, Las Vegas, NV 89155
.7	b. At Arraignment and plea: David Gibson & Stephen
8	Dahl, DPDs (same address as above).
- 11	

Petitioner was deprived of the effective assistance of counsel before, during and after the entrance of the guilty plea in that counsel misrepresented, coerced and tricked Petitioner into the plea by making him believe he would definitely receive an all white jury and the death penalty if he went to trial. Counsel did this while being fully aware that such representations were contrary to existing Nevada case law and that neither the circumstances of the case or those of Petitioner warranted such punishment.

Counsel failed to review the charging document with Petitioner or discuss with him the facts of the case. Counsel further failed to explain to Petitioner the full extent of the sentence of life without the possibility of parole or the elements of the crime charged and what exactly was meant or had to be proven as far as the term "malice aforethought" was concerned, any defenses to the charges (such as accidental shooting), or the consequences of entering plea to the charge of first degree murder. Counsel also neglected to review with Petitioner the sufficiency of the State's evidence, if any, and he failed to discuss with Petitioner any possible trial or plea bargaining tactics or strategy.

Counsel also failed to confer with the parents, or other legal guardian of the 16 year old Petitioner, before inducing him into a plea to first degree murder and a sentence of life without the possibility of parole. Instead, not only did counsel mislead Petitioner, counsel also fraudulently lead Petitioner to believe that the judge would convert the sentence of life without the possibility of parole to one of life with, and that

he (counsel) would file additional pleadings on Petitioner's behalf "before time ran out."

That counsel failed to perform an independent investigation or talk to any of the witnesses to the crime, nor did counsel pursue any defense as to the accidental nature of the shooting.

Because of counsel's ineffectiveness in this regard, it was not possible for Petitioner to know the full consequences of the plea bargaining process, or to knowingly and understandingly relinquish his rights to the crime charges, or, at the very least, understand the important considerations relevant to reaching the important decision of pleading to first degree murder and being sentence to prison for the "remainder" of Petitioner's life without any possibility of parole. Thus, because of counsel's ineffectiveness, misrepresentations, coercions and trickery counsel failed, and therefore unable, to assist Petitioner in making an informed and conscious choice during the plea bargaining process.

At the conclusion of the entrance of the guilty plea and subsequent sentencing, counsel failed to file a direct appeal challenging, at the very least, the cruel and unusual nature of the penalty imposed, while knowing the same to be disproportionate to crimes and persons of similar circumstances within this jurisdiction.

As a whole, counsel's ineffectiveness amounted to Petitioner receiving less than reasonably competent advice during a critical stage in the criminal process.

But for counsel's ineffectiveness, misrepresentations,

coercion, trickery and unprofessional conduct and errors, the results of the proceedings would have been quite different and the direct prejudice suffered by Petitioner would have less than that actually received. Thus, the instant proceedings would not be subject to attack and Petitioner would definitely not have plead guilty to first degree murder and the rest of his entire life in prison without the possibility of parole, but instead, Petitioner would have insisted on trial on the charges or a plea to a lesser offense or sentence.

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